

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-02

SS-15 NSC-05 /066 R

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R 172258Z MAR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

INFO AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: EAIR, LI

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: AIR LIBERIA TICKETING AND BILATERAL
CONSULTATIONS

REF: A) MONROVIA 1295; B) STATE 37671

1. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES EMBASSY MONROVIA'S COMMENTS CON-
TAINED REFTTEL. DECISION CONCERNING CIVAIR CONSULTATIONS
WILL BE BASED ON OUTCOME POLICY REVIEW DESCRIBED REF B.
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IF ASKED, EMBASSY MAY INFORM GOL THAT USG STILL HAS CON-

SULTATIONS REQUEST UNDER REVIEW.

2. PAN AM HAS INFORMED DEPARTMENT THAT AIRLINE IS PREPARING BLOCK SPACE PROPOSAL AND WILL BE SENDING IT SHORTLY TO AIR LIBERIA FOR CONSIDERATION. AFTER PROPOSAL IS REVIEWED BY LIBERIANS, PAN AM WILLING TO HOLD DISCUSSIONS.

3. WE CONCUR WITH EMBASSY'S RECOMMENDATION TO SEND DIPLOMATIC NOTE RE TICKETING. SUGGEST TEXT OF NOTE ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

"THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND HAS THE

HONOR TO REFER TO THE DIRECTIVE ISSUED BY LIBERIAN AUTHORITIES PROPOSING THAT FOREIGN CONCESSIONS OPERATING IN LIBERIA SHOULD EXCLUSIVE UTILIZE AIR LIBERIA'S TICKETING FACILITIES FOR ARRANGING AIR TRAVEL. TO THE EXTENT THIS ACTION AFFECTS UNITED STATES CITIZENS, THE EMBASSY IS CONCERNED THAT THE DIRECTIVE APPEARS TO BE INCONSISTENT WITH THE TRADITION OF FAIR AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY ACCORDED BY THE AUTHORITIES OF LIBERIA TO THE CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES ENGAGED IN CONDUCTING BUSINESS IN LIBERIA. THE EMBASSY NOTES THAT CITIZENS OF LIBERIA IN THE UNITED STATES ARE NOT SUBJECT TO ANY RESTRICTIONS WITH REGARD TO PURCHASE OF AIRLINE TICKETS. THE DIRECTIVE COULD ALSO BE INTERPRETED AS A DISCRIMINATORY MEASURE AGAINST THE US AIRLINE OPERATING IN LIBERIA, SINCE THE US AIRLINE WOULD BE DEPRIVED OF THE OPPORTUNITY TO SELL TICKETS TO THE SEGMENT OF THE PUBLIC AFFECTED BY THE DIRECTIVE. IN THE INTERESTS OF FURTHERING THE FRIENDLY COMMERCIAL RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES, IT IS THEREFORE REQUESTED THAT THE LIBERIAN AUTHORITIES RECONSIDER THE MEASURE REFERRED TO ABOVE.

"COMPLIMENTARY CLOSE."

4. FYI: AFTER EXTENSIVE REVIEW OF THE US-LIBERIA TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP, COMMERCE AND NAVIGATION AND APPROPRIATE MULTILATERAL AGREEMENTS, DEPARTMENT HAS DECIDED THAT PER-

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SUASIVE LEGAL CASE CANNOT BE MADE AGAINST LIBERIAN DIRECTIVE.

IN VIEW OF MARGINAL PECUNIARY INTEREST APPARENTLY AT STAKE FOR PAN AM AND LACK OF LEGAL ARGUMENTS THAT COULD BE MUSTERED IN SUPPORT OF OUR CASE, EMBASSY MAY NOT WISH TO PRESS ISSUE BEYOND DELIVERY OF NOTE, NOR PURSUE MATTER WITH OTHER EMBASSIES IN MONROVIA. END FYI. INGERSOLL

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